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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *July* the 22d, 1756.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM the ſame clergyman who troubled you with an account of his misfortunes in your paper Numb. XXXI, and am indebted to your kind publication of that letter for the eaſe and happineſs, which, with only one ſingle interruption, I have enjoyed ever ſince. My uncommon, and I hope I may ſay, unmerited diſtreſſes, recommended me to the notice of a noble lord, who called to ſee me at my lodgings, brought me home to his lordſhip's own houſe, and honoured me ſo far as to make me his domeſtic chaplain. His lordſhip's regard for me was ſo truly ſincere, that he married me ſoon after to my lady's woman, a young perſon of admirable beauty and virtue, and a great favourite of my lord, becauſe, as his lordſhip uſed often to tell me, ſhe was a clergyman's daughter, and, for what reaſon he knew not, extremely hated by his lady. But my good fortune did not end here: his lordſhip, whoſe nature it is never to be tired with doing good, was ſo very obliging as to take us a little houſe, ready

ready furniſhed, in a retired and pleaſant part of the town, paying the rent of it himſelf, and making us conſiderable preſents from time to time: he was alſo ſo very condeſcending as to ſpend two or three evenings in a week with us, and frequently to take my wife with him in the chariot for an afternoon's airing, as ſhe had the misfortune, ſoon after our marriage, of labouring under an ill ſtate of health, which, as we all feared, would terminate in a dropſy.

His lordſhip was ſtill kinder to me in other affairs, inſomuch that in leſs than two months after our marriage, he ſent me into the weſt, with thirty guineas in my pocket, to ſupply the place of a worthy clergyman, whom my lord had ſent for to town upon particular buſineſs; and becauſe the ill health of my wife required a little country air, his lordſhip propoſed taking lodgings for her at Knightſbridge during my abſence, where ſhe was daily to be attended by his own phyſician.

At the end of ſix weeks his lordſhip was pleaſed to recall me to town, where I had the inexpreſſible ſatisfaction of finding my wife returned to her houſe, perfectly cured of her diſorder, with only a little paleneſs remaining from the violent remedies preſcribed to her by her phyſician. I had the additional happineſs of finding his lordſhip with my wife, waiting my return, and to be honoured with his thanks for the faithful diſcharge of my truſt, together with a promiſe of the very firſt living that ſhould fall within his gift.

I mention theſe things, Sir, to the honour of my noble benefactor, who ever ſince my marriage, which is now three years ago, has been laviſhing his favours upon me; who has been ſo very condeſcending as to ſtand godfather in perſon to my two children, and to take every opportunity of making me happy by his viſits. But I am not entering into a particular detail of the pleaſures I enjoy: I have another motive for troubling you with this letter.

His lordſhip, the beginning of this month, was pleaſed, among the many inſtances of his goodneſs, to procure for me a chaplainſhip in one of the regiments now in Scotland; and as my attendance was immediately neceſſary, and my wife too far gone with child to think of going with me; as ſoon as I had prepared every thing for my journey, I ſent an advertiſement to the Daily Advertiſer in the following words.

" Wanted

"WANTED an agreeable companion in a poſt-chaiſe "to Edinburgh. Enquire for the reverend W. B. at "the green-park coffee-houſe, Piccadilly. Note, the "utmoſt expedition will be neceſſary."

THE next morning, as I was reading a newspaper in the coffee-room, I heard a young gentleman, of a very modeſt and decent appearance, enquiring at the bar for the reverend Mr. W. B. I told him that I was the perſon, and calling for a couple of diſhes of coffee, we ſat down together, and entered upon the ſubject of the advertiſement. He aſſured me, that if his friends did not flatter him, he was a very agreeable companion; that he had buſineſs of conſequence to tranſact at Edinburgh; that he was particularly pleaſed to find by the advertiſement that I was a clergyman, having a great veneration for gentlemen of that function; that he had entertained thoughts of becoming one himſelf, was a near relation of the biſhop of * * *, and though young as he appeared, he was never ſo happy as when engaged in ſerious converſation with a worthy divine. He was pleaſed to add that he ſaw ſomething in my appearance which entitled me to that character, and that he did not doubt of being greatly edified during ſo long a journey. Many civilities paſſed on my ſide in return; and in the end it was agreed that we ſhould ſet out that very evening at ſix o'clock. He was punctual to his appointment, with a ſervant on horſeback, leading a handſome gelding for his maſter, who with two young gentlemen, his friends, were waiting for me at the inn. I could not help obſerving, while the chaiſe was getting ready, that theſe young gentlemen were taking a good deal of pains to ſtifle a laugh, which on our ſtepping into the carriage, they were no longer able to contain: but I made no remarks upon their behaviour, and we ſat out upon our journey.

WE reached Ware that night, without any thing happening worthy of remark, except that we were ſtopt upon the road by two young gentlemen on horſeback, and interrupted in a very ſerious converſation, by their ſaluting my companion with "Z——ds, Jack! what playing "the ſaint, and travelling to Heaven with a parſon!" My fellow-traveller gave them a look of contempt, and after aſſuring them that he had not the honour of knowing them, and pulling up the glaſs, ordered the poſtilion to drive on.

OUR

OUR evening at Ware was ſpent in remarks on the diſſoluteneſs of the times, and the indecent liberties that wild and profligate young fellows were every where taking with the clergy. After much ſerious diſcourſe, and moderate refreſhment, we retired to reſt. I ſlept longer than uſual in the morning, and no ſooner was I awake, than I diſcovered with equal confuſion and ſurprize that I was in bed with a woman, who, as I attempted to get up, threw her arms about my neck, and compelled me to lie down. The ſtruggle and the noiſe I made upon this occaſion, together with the ſcreams of the woman, who ſtill held me faſt, alarmed the whole inn, and drew a croud of ſpectators into the room, headed by my companion, and followed by a ſoldier, who called himſelf the huſband of the woman, ſwearing that he would have my heart's blood for corrupting the chaſtity of his wife. I pleaded my innocence to an unbelieving audience, while the woman accuſed me of having forced her againſt her will; pretending that it was her misfortune over-night to be a little in liquor, and that ſhe had miſtaken the room I lay in for her own.

To dwell no longer than is needful upon this diſgraceful affair, I was in the end compelled to give a guinea to the ſoldier, and afterwards to ſubmit with patience to the inſults of a mob, who ſurrounded the inn at our enterance into the poſt-chaiſe, and followed it with hootings to the very extremity of the town.

FROM the paſſive behaviour of my companion at the inn, and the demure looks that he now put on, I began to harbour a ſuſpicion of him not greatly to his advantage; and while I was deliberating in what manner to addreſs him, an accident happened, which at once threw him off his guard, and diſcovered to me, that inſtead of an agreeable companion, I was travelling with a fiend. This accident was the ſudden and violent overturning of the poſt-chaiſe; upon which occaſion, though neither of us was hurt, he diſcharged ſuch a volley of curſes on the poſtilion, as made me tremble to hear him. I endeavoured to pacify him by the gentleſt admonitions, which inſtead of calming his anger, turned it all upon myſelf; and amidſt a thouſand oaths and imprecations, he vowed revenge upon my head, telling me that he hated a parſon as he hated old Nic; that he had bribed the ſoldier's whore to go to bed to me at the

inn,

inn, and that he came out upon no other buſineſs than to play the devil with me all the way. I ſtood aghaſt at what I heard, and refuſed getting into the chaiſe again; upon which a ſtruggle enſued, and blows paſſed between us; till by the aſſiſtance of his ſervant, and the knavery of the poſtilion, whom he gained over to his ſide with a whole handful of ſilver, I was thruſt into the chaiſe, and compelled to go on.

We had ſcarcely travelled a mile before we overtook a couple of Gypſies upon the road; one an old woman, and the other a girl. They were all over rags and filth, and ſo intoxicated with liquor, that they reeled at every ſtep. My companion called to the poſtilion to ſtop, and after queſtioning theſe wretches about the way they were going, got out of the chaiſe, and told me that he could not in charity ſit lolling at his eaſe, while two of the tender ſex were walking barefoot on the road; and that if I had no weighty objections, he would make the old lady an offer of his ſeat, and Miſs, as he was pleaſed to call her, might with great conveniency ſit upon my knee. It was in vain for me to expoſtulate or to attempt leaping out after him: his ſervant held me faſt by the arm, while the maſter with great gravity and ceremony handed the creatures into the chaiſe, and then mounting his horſe, rode cloſe by it's ſide, talking obſcenity to the wretches, and inſtructing them to behave to me in a manner not to be endured nor deſcribed

In this manner we paſſed through the villages, and entered Royſton; the poſtilion being ordered to walk his horſes gently to the inn, that we might be followed by a mob, whom my companion called to at every turning to ſmoke the parſon and his doxies.

I stept from the chaiſe amidſt the hallowing of the rabble, and ran into a room, the door of which I locked. Here I determined to remain, or to fly to the magiſtrate for protection, had not my tormentor made his appearance at the window, telling me that as the joke was now at an end, and as he believed I had had enough of an agreeable companion, he had altered his intention of viſiting Scotland, and ſhould return to town that morning. I thanked him for the favour, but kept cloſe to my room, till I ſaw him with his ſervant ride out of the inn, and take the road to London. I then ordered ſome refreſhment to be brought me, and a poſt-chaiſe to be in readineſs; but how great was my aſtoniſhment,

when